

CIRM Provides \$11 Million Boost in Funding to Train Stem Cell Scientists

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Stanford, Calif., December 10, 2009 – Two critical programs funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the state stem cell agency, got a \$11 million increase today when the agency's 29-member Governing Board voted to approve funding for two additional grants in the Training II program and five additional grants in the Bridges program.

The grants voted in today had been recommended by the Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group for funding if funds permit. In January 2009, when the Board considered those applications, they voted to fund only the top tier due to uncertainty in the bond market. With improvements in the state's bond situation, the Board chose to reconsider the second tier of grants in order to further bolster successful programs training the next generation of stem cell scientists and laboratory staff.

Robert Klein, chair of the Governing Board, said funding these additional programs is an important step in ensuring that California has a well-trained stem cell workforce. "Training is critical to our mission of developing new therapies," he said. "During a time when the state is having to cut funding to higher education, our agency is bridging part of the gap, ensuring that highly qualified students receive the training they need to fill the high-tech stem cell research jobs of the future."

The Training II awards provide funding for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and clinical fellows doing research in stem cell biology labs. The Bridges awards fund coursework and internships to prepare undergraduate and masters level students for careers in academic and industry stem cell science laboratories. Together, these programs ensure a pipeline of highly trained stem cell scientists and laboratory personnel to propel California's growing stem cell industry.

Lisa Klig, Director of the Bridges program at California State University, Long Beach, said the program has been so successful that two additional sites have requested interns, indicating the need for lab personnel with stem cell training. Her diverse students are also typical of the program across California: of four students all are women, two are Hispanic and one is Asian. "The students are loving it and are highly successful in their internships," she said.

Other ICOC Business

The Board approved the concept for the next round of Early Translational Awards. The first round, awarded in April 2009, went to 16 grantees who are in the early stages of translating basic stem cell science into new therapies.

"This grant program has an important place in our overall strategy of funding basic stem cell biology and then supporting scientists working to turn those basic discoveries into new cures," said Alan Trounson, CIRM President. "This next round of Early Translational grants will push more good ideas toward therapies for the people of California and the world."

The board also voted to increase the salary of vice-chair Art Torres, which had been based on a half-time schedule. The increase to \$225,00 for 80% time reflects both his expanded time commitment and his valuable service to the agency.

The board also voted to create a subcommittee on communication to consider options for increasing CIRM's outreach to the public. The committee will be chaired by Robert Klein with Art Torres serving as vice-chair.

New Bridges Programs

Application Number	Institution	PI Name	Total Budget
TB1-01181	California State University, Fullerton	Nilay Patel	\$1,281,180
TB1-01183	California State University, Northridge	Randy Cohen	\$1,627,220

TB1-01185	California State University, San Bernardino	Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis	\$1,164,017
TB1-01188	City College Of San Francisco	Carin Zimmerman	\$1,110,608
TB1-01197	Berkeley City College	Barbara Des Rochers	\$1,093,569
Total approved today			\$6,276,594

New Training II programs

Application Number	Institution	PI Name	Total Budget
TG2-01155	Buck Institute for Age Research	David Greenberg	\$1,571,229
TG2-01161	University of Southern California	Robert Maxson	\$3,032,100
Total approved today			\$4,603,329

All grants funded to-date

Institution	Total Grants	Total Funds
Stanford University	42	\$162,979,744
University of California, Los Angeles	32	\$117,204,702
University of California, San Francisco	30	\$102,971,301
University of Southern California	19	\$71,128,925
University of California, San Diego	25	\$65,583,177
University of California, Irvine	22	\$59,757,564
University of California, Davis	15	\$49,088,145
Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine	1	\$43,000,000
City of Hope National Medical Center	7	\$36,730,319
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies	13	\$35,051,452

University of California, Berkeley	10	\$34,626,605
Scripps Research Institute	11	\$27,560,249
Buck Institute for Age Research	5	\$27,000,593
Novocell, Inc.	4	\$26,281,356
Burnham Institute for Medical Research	15	\$23,134,219
The J. David Gladstone Institutes	13	\$22,633,003
University of California, Santa Cruz	9	\$19,383,633
Childrens Hospital Los Angeles	7	\$14,219,310
University of California, Merced	5	\$8,494,301
University of California, Santa Barbara	5	\$8,490,842
University of California, Riverside	4	\$6,055,762
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	2	\$5,607,118
BioTime, Inc.	1	\$4,721,706
The Jackson Laboratory West	1	\$3,841,240
The Parkinson's Institute	1	\$3,701,766
San Diego State University	2	\$3,464,360
Scripps Health	1	\$3,118,431
Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research	3	\$2,473,053
California Institute of Technology	1	\$2,071,823
San Jose State University	1	\$1,756,260
California State University, Channel Islands	1	\$1,755,906

California State University, San Marcos	1	\$1,754,664
Pasadena City College	1	\$1,750,491
San Francisco State University	1	\$1,736,058
California State University, Northridge	1	\$1,627,220
Humboldt State University	1	\$1,638,863
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	1	\$1,459,297
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	1	\$1,419,009
California State University, Long Beach	1	\$1,355,700
California State University, Sacramento	1	\$1,343,940
California State University, Fullerton	1	\$1,281,180
California State University, San Bernardino	1	\$1,164,017
City College Of San Francisco	1	\$1,110,608
Berkeley City College	1	\$1,093,569
VistaGen Therapeutics, Inc.	1	\$971,558
Gamma Medica-Ideas, Inc.	1	\$949,748
Vala Sciences, Inc.	1	\$906,629
Invitrogen Corporation	1	\$869,262
Fluidigm Corporation	1	\$749,520
Human BioMolecular Research Institute	1	\$714,654
Childrens Hospital Oakland Research Institute	1	\$55,000
TOTALS	328	\$1,017,837,852

About CIRM

CIRM was established in November, 2004 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act. The statewide ballot measure, which provided \$3 billion in funding for stem cell research at California universities and research institutions, was overwhelmingly approved by voters, and called for the establishment of an entity to make grants and provide loans for stem cell research, research facilities, and other vital research opportunities. To date, the CIRM governing board has approved 328 grants totaling more than \$1 billion, making CIRM the largest source of funding for human embryonic stem cell research in the world. For more information, please visit www.cirm.ca.gov.

Follow us:

- Watch our stem cell videos on YouTube
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The existing Bridges programs are listed here: </about-cirm/newsroom/press-releases/01302009/cirm-approves-58-million-build-californias-future-stem>

Contact Don Gibbons to speak with program directors, funded students or intern mentors about the impact of this program on students or on research labs.

Source URL: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/about-cirm/newsroom/press-releases/12102009/cirm-provides-11-million-boost-funding-train-stem-cell>